



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 600

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PSC Sets Intervention Deadline In CenturyTel Request For Competitive Classification In A Few Of Its Exchanges

JEFFERSON CITY—CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (CenturyTel) has filed an application with the Public Service Commission seeking competitive classification for a few of its exchanges in Missouri. In its request, CenturyTel is seeking to classify all of its residential services, other than exchange access service, for its Ava, Columbia, Crane, Marshfield and Seymour exchanges as competitive.

If competitive status is granted, CenturyTel would no longer be subject to price or rate regulation by the PSC in the above exchanges. CenturyTel would be permitted to raise or lower its telephone prices at its own discretion, subject to the marketplace. The PSC would continue to regulate quality of service, service termination and other billing issues.

Applications to intervene and participate in this case must be filed on or before **February 7, 2006**, with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. Copies of the application should be sent to: Larry W. Dority, Fischer & Dority, P.C., 101 Madison, Suite 400, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101; and the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-2230.

In this case, state law requires the Commission to issue its decision within 30 days of CenturyTel's February 1, 2006 filing. Under the law, the 30-day criteria for determining competitive classification is based upon the existence of two other entities providing basic local telecommunications service, one of which may be a wireless provider, the other a wireline company providing local voice service using facilities in which it has a partial or full ownership interest.

If any party opposes the CenturyTel application, a hearing will be held on February 16, 2006, in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, in Jefferson City, Missouri.